

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ISLAMA 02374 120032Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
COME-00 EB-08 LAB-04 SIL-01 DHA-02 MCT-01 /072 W
-----120038Z 003154 /70

P 111201Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 281

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 2374

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION ISLAMABAD INFO KARACHI FROM
LAHORE 11 MAR REPEATED YOU:

QUOTE CONFIDENTIAL LAHORE 0211

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PK
SUBJECT: HARTAL

REF: LAHORE 161

1. OPPOSITION HARTAL IS MORE SUCCESSFUL THAN PREVIOUS ONE
IN LAHORE. ANARKALI, AS WELL AS MOST OTHER BAZAARS, HAVE
BEEN SHUT SINCE MORNING. MALL IS ABOUT 50P.C. CLOSED.
AS OF 1400, SHOPS WHICH HAD REMAINED OPEN UNTIL THEN ON MALL
AND ELSEWHERE WERE ALSO BEGINNING TO CLOSE. FOR SOME, HOWEVER,
THIS IS NORMAL FRIDAY ROUTINE. CERTAIN WHOLESALE MARKETS
IN LAHORE USUALLY CLOSE ON FRIDAY, WHICH HAS HELPED OPPOSITION.

2. TRANSPORT IS PLYING, ALTHOUGH NUMBER OF BUSES APPEARS
REDUCED. THERE WAS A RUMOR THIS MORNING THAT SOME BUSES
WERE BURNED BY OPPOSITION ELEMENTS ON FEROSPUT ROAD. IF
SO, THIS MAY EXPLAIN SITUATION. TAXIS, RICKSHAWS AND PRIVATE
CARS MOVING NORMALLY, BUT TRAFFIC IS LIGHT.

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3. SECURITY FORCES ARE DEPLOYED THROUGHOUT THE CITY. POL
OFFICER SAW FSF, POLICE, ARMY AND RANGERS SPOTTED ABOUT
MAIN DOWNTOWN AREAS. SO FAR, SITUATION IS CALM. HOWEVER,
FRIDAY PRAYERS ARE NOW IN PROGRESS AND SOME FEAR TROUBLE
IF CONGREGATIONS ATTEMPT TO COME OUT IN PROCESSION.

4. RAPHAN MAIZE IS OPEN IN LYALLPUR. DIRECTOR TOLD POL

OFFICER ON PHONE SITUATION IS PEACEFUL AROUND PLANT. HE
COULD NOT REPORT ABOUT DOWNTOWN AREAS.

5. PNA LEADERS ARE IN LAHORE. THEY WILL REPORTEDLY MEET
TONIGHT TO ASSESS HARTAL AND DETERMINE FUTURE COURSE OF ACTION.
IF THEY BELIEVE THEY HAVE PUBLIC SUPPORT, THEY ARE EXPECTED
TO CALL FOR PROCESSIONS ON SUNDAY IN DEFIANCE OF SECTION 144.
DESPITE BHUTTO'S OVERWHELMING VICTORY, PNA CONTINUES TO KEEP
HIM ON DEFENSIVE. GAMON UNQUOTE BYROADE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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